

Christmas greetings from Jared, Jane, Catriona and Ian Hay,

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2013 - a year of rebuilding and rejoicing. Welcome to the 2013 Hay Family newsletter.

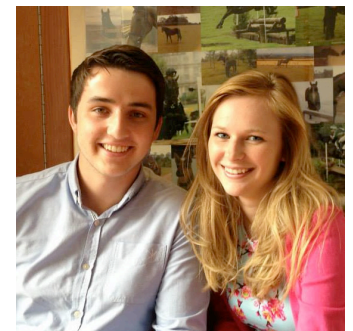
FAMILY. Jane. Jane is still enjoying retirement, although she has found more things to do to fill her time. Fun includes the Choral Union and the highlight of their year was a dramatic performance of a new composition by Paul Mealor. She is still involved as a Trustee with LawWorks Scotland, a legal charity that arranges pro bono advice. There have also been a few school inspections, and she has a special affection for primary schools that provide carrot cake. Early next year she will complete training as member of the General Dental Council Fitness to Practice Panel and travel to London on several occasions for Panel hearings. We also have contact with a number of students who have been great fun to get to know.



Catriona This was Catriona's final year of her Psychology degree and all went well with her dissertation and exams. We now have a BSc in the family! Rugby has played a large part in her life while at Lancaster (including organising inter-college sports and a trip to Sofia), and on returning to Edinburgh she signed up for Watsonians, playing a variety of positions and helping with the coaching of the young players in the Primary School. She is looking to make some money with casual work to save up for a visit to the US next year in order to see old friends. The hope is she will also be able to take some SRU coaching badges, which would be a good use of her academic training as well. She also turned 21 in October, which

helped the car insurance premium.

Ian is now in his second year at Aberdeen University studying Petroleum Engineering. His first year went well, and although it had been some time since he had been confronted with exams, he was reassured by his results which has helped him approach his studies with greater confidence. Having lived for a year in his Mum's old hall of residence, he is now sharing a flat with 6 other lads - can you imagine it? In Freshers' Week of last year, he met Beth Waters and they have been an 'item' ever since, recently celebrating a year together. Spurs are still his team, but they failed to bring him as much joy as a 4,000 road-trip from Rochester NY to Cortez FL and back. It was the trip of a lifetime with so much to see and experience.



Jared. Jared's year has been dominated by the building project at Church, which was frustrating because it was longer, bigger and more expensive than expected. But there was great support for it all round and at the end of the summer we were able to return to the sanctuary while the Lounge now affords much better facilities for hospitality. We hope we have got rid of the dry rot! Relaxation has been found on the golf course although, as my friend says, 'there is room for improvement.' UE Chaplaincy has been a highlight and his work with students has been developing. This included a trip with Jane and two students to the Taizé Community in France. It was a time of challenge and spiritual refreshment. In the wake of it Jared was invited to give

reflections on the experience to student groups and to run times of Taizé-style worship in the Chaplaincy Sanctuary. In recent months there have been many small encouragements, while his range of wines now includes 'Plum,' this year's winner of the Adam Roxburgh Memorial Trophy.

HOLIDAYS We began the year with a Silver Wedding trip to Basel, and Jared visited the Karl Barth Archiv (☺). Our **summer holiday** started in exciting fashion with Catriona's graduation in Lancaster. It was a beautiful day and a great celebration of achievement. Jane and Jared then went on to Dinan in Brittany for a couple of weeks - a return to the Rue du Four by the River Rance but two doors down from last year. It was a lovely time and we took some days on the way home to visit relatives in Chelmsford and Northampton. In November we were at the most joyful wedding we have ever attended - our nephew Kev Murdoch to Laura Wingfield Digby from Oxford. Churches from Oxford, Hackney and Euston were represented giving it a multi-cultural feel with lots of cheering and clapping (at appropriate points!). We then had our, by now, regular week in Ambleside. We love it, and went to Zeffirelli's Cinema three times in the week!



The dogs Sadly this year we had to say farewell to Rosie, our Collie Cross, who was nearly 16 years old. The family were heartbroken since she'd been so much a part of our family life for so long. We had already made the decision that when Rosie died we would get a puppy, and Catriona had already chosen the name - Jura. On the way back from Ambleside in November we popped over to Yorkshire to pick her up, a Cockapoo - that's a cross of Working Cocker Spaniel and Miniature Poodle. Within a week Jura (dob 12/09/13) has already won our hearts and has taken us to hers.



PARENTS. Granny McLeod Granny now gets out and about with the aid of a wheelchair and enjoys Jane's company to take her to coffee shops during the week. She is now a member of Priestfield having been coming to church with us more often than not anyway. The girls from the Chelmsford family visit in turns - then Granny takes us all out for tea!

Gran Hay continues to live on her own with the help she receives from carers and her lunch from Appetito. She has been quite stable in her health, but her memory is a real problem and she snoozes quite a lot. But good friends and family often take her out and about.

CHURCH. It's been an exciting and frustrating year at Priestfield. Having got everything in place to start our refurbishment and dry rot work, once it was underway we discovered that the rot was more extensive than expected taking longer to fix and proving more expensive. We were grateful for additional financial and moral support from the Presbytery and the General Trustees. The work is complete and our rededication service yesterday was a thrilling event. We have also been blessed with the addition of new members, increased contact with students and a growing number of people coming to Messy Church. The new facilities in the Lounge offer us greater opportunities for gatherings and hospitality.



It's been a challenging, enjoyable and exciting year. Wherever you are reading this, and whatever your circumstances, may you know the peace and joy of Christ this Christmas and may God journey with you in 2014.

Love from Jared, Jane, Catriona and Ian.